

**Mount Ascutney Regional  
TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Meeting Minutes of November 30, 2022**

A meeting of the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) was held via Zoom and at the MARC offices at 6:00 pm.

**Attendance**

TAC members present: Kristi Morris, Springfield; Arne Jonynas, Chester; John Saydek, Cavendish; Sharon Bixby, Ludlow; Wayne Wheelock, Baltimore; Gordy Eastman, Reading; Diane Foulds, Windsor; Eric Bye, at-large

Others present: Otis Munroe, MARC; Christine Howe, SEVT; Amanda Holland, VTrans

Kristi Morris opened the meeting at 6:00 pm.

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

All present members of the TAC and guests introduced themselves.

**2. Changes to the Agenda**

Otis noted the addition of the ANR municipal vehicle survey and of the upcoming REMC meeting.

**3. Approval of Minutes**

*Gordy Eastman made a motion to approve the October 26<sup>th</sup> minutes. Second by Wayne Wheelock. The motion passed unanimously.*

**3. Update on Bridge #30 N&S in Weathersfield**

Gordy gave an overview of the project to replace the decks of the North and Southbound I-91 bridges over VT-131 in Weathersfield. He shared progress pictures that show the project from before construction to after completion. Bridge projects like these require meticulous planning. Even so, there are often unexpected complications. In the case of the Weathersfield bridges, these included maintenance issues beyond the original project scope and concrete deterioration that was only revealed as the project progressed. Some parts had to be reused because in the time since the bridge was built they have ceased production. These bridges were built in 1965. The project is completed by a primary contractor, in this case with a crew of six, and a wide range of subcontractors. These subcontractors bring specialized expertise and equipment that is needed to complete discrete phases of the project.

Part of the discussion centered around newer materials and techniques that have been developed since the bridges were built originally that are designed to increase the life of the structure.

Diane asked about scheduling and the impacts of labor shortages. The projects started in March of 2021 and 2022 and ended in October and September. When contractors bid on a project they already have labor and subcontractors lined up.

Kristi mentioned that often local officials get questions from the general public about why these kinds of projects take so long. Having the kind of information in this presentation would help people understand the process and know what to expect.

**6. Updates and Announcements**

Otis shared information on the Transportation Alternatives Program and Better Roads grants.

Otis also shared announcements of the VTrans Carbon Reduction Strategy, the ANR municipal class six and seven vehicles survey, and MARC's upcoming Regional Emergency Management Committee (REMC) meeting featuring the National Weather Service.

**7. Future agenda items & next meeting date**

a. Next meeting: January 25, 2022.

b. Topic: Tiana Smith from Green Mountain Power (GMP) on GMP's electric vehicle programs.

**9. Adjourn**

*Wayne Wheelock made a motion to adjourn. Second by Gordy Eastman. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:20 pm.*